



News Release

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Corps signs agreement

Baltimore — Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr., commander and district engineer for the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signed a partnering agreement for the Corps of Engineers today with the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

The primary purpose of the agreement is to develop ways to broaden use of small and disadvantaged businesses as prime contractors and subcontractors for Corps of Engineers' projects.

"This is a great opportunity for the Corps and the small business community," said Fiala. "We presently use many small business contractors on all our projects, but we are always seeking ways to increase their involvement. This partnership agreement will cement our commitment to that goal."

The agreement will provide an opportunity for small and disadvantaged business use consistent with federal contracting policy described in the Federal Acquisition Regulation entitled "Small Business Programs." The agreement commits the signatories to the following:

- a. Maintaining open and effective exchange of ideas and information.
- b. Encouraging participation of GWBOT member firms of pending Corps contract acquisitions and initiatives.
- c. Conducting minimum of one acquisition workshop annually in D.C.
- d. Developing acquisition strategies that maximize the use of small/disadvantaged business as prime contractors, and encouraging large contractors to fulfill small business subcontracting program goals.
- e. Identifying and advising local firms of Corps contracting opportunities.
- f. Establishing a record of small business use that reflects a standard of excellence in meeting the mission needs and program goals of the partners.